

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 114960

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 FEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-07 NRC-05 ERDA-05 COME-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 EUR-12 /105 R

DRAFTED BY OES/NET/RD:HDBENGELSDORF:LL

APPROVED BY AF:TSEELYE

AF - MR. JAMES BLAKE

AF/S - MR. DAVID CHRISTENSEN

PM/NPO - MR. JAMES GOODBY (SUBS)

ERDA - MR. GERARD HELFRICH (SUBS)

ACDA - MR. RICK WILLIAMSON (INFO)

M - LSEAGLEBURGER

S/S-O: MTANNER

----- 054738

O 110210Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 114960

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, TECH, SF

SUBJECT: KOEBERG NUCLEAR POWER STATION

REF: (A) STATE 108619 (B) STATE 098043 (C) STATE 099278

(D) CAPETOWN 0464 (E) CAPETOWN 00525

GIVEN FACTORS CITED IN REFTEL E AND OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT

SMITH OF ESCOM IS LEAVING SOUTH AFRICA TOMORROW, WE ARE

PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE EMBASSY TO NOW REDUCE OUR ORAL

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ASSURANCES TO ESCOM TO WRITING. ACCORDINGLY, THE EMBASSY

IS AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE THE SAG (COPY TO ESCOM) WITH THE FOLLOWING AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH IS BASED ON PARAS 4B THROUGH D OF STATE 098043.

BEGIN QUOTE. THIS REFERS TO CONVERSATIONS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMMISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA (ESCOM) IN WHICH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WAS ASKED FOR ITS VIEWS AS TO WHETHER IT WOULD SUPPORT THE TIMELY COMPLETION OF KOEBERG NUCLEAR POWER STATION IF THE CONSORTIUM IN WHICH THE GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY RECEIVES THE FINAL AWARD FOR THE PROJECT.

AS WE HAVE EXPLAINED IN OUR PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ISSUING LICENSES FOR THE EXPORT OF ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL AND REACTORS FROM THE UNITED STATES NOW RESTS WITH THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, WHICH, OF COURSE, FULLY TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH ON SUCH TRANSACTIONS.

WE HAVE ALREADY FURNISHED THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND ESCOM WITH A LETTER FROM THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ADDRESSING THE FACTORS THAT THE NRC WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN PROCESSING THE EXPORT LICENSES FOR THE KOEBERG REACTORS. WE BELIEVE THIS LETTER CLEARLY EVIDENCES THAT THE NRC, AN INDEPENDENT REGULATORY BODY, WILL BE GUIDED BY OBJECTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES IN ITS CONSIDERATION OF NUCLEAR EXPORT LICENSES FOR THE KOEBERG PROJECT. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ALSO HAS EXCHANGED LETTERS WITH THE GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF THE MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR COMPLETION OF THE KOEBERG PROJECT.

IN ADDITION, HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO UNDERScore THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH ASCRIBES TO MAINTAINING ITS STATUS AS A STABLE AND RELIABLE SUPPLIER OF NUCLEAR FUELS AND EQUIPMENT, A ROLE WHICH IS IMPORTANT TO AND CONSISTENT WITH U.S. NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES. THE CONCLUSION BY THE UNITED STATES OF LONG-TERM NUCLEAR POWER AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA (SCHEDULED TO RUN UNTIL 2007) AS WELL AS TWO LONG-TERM FUEL CONTRACTS PURSUANT TO THAT AGREEMENT REFLECT THIS OBJECTIVE. WE SHOULD LIKE TO NOTE THAT SUCH AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS ARE ENTERED INTO BY THE UNITED STATES WITH FULL REALIZATION OF THEIR IMPORTANCE TO BOTH PARTIES, AND WITH THE INTENTION THAT THEY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN GOOD FAITH FOR THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THE ARRANGEMENTS.

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WITH THIS AS A BACKGROUND, THE U.S. EXECUTIVE BRANCH INTENDS TO FACILITATE TIMELY COMPLETION OF THE KOEBERG STATIONS IF AN AWARD IS MADE TO THE U.S.-DUTCH-SWISS CONSORTIUM. END QUOTE.

BEGIN FYI. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR'S NOTE OF APRIL 23, 1976, WHICH REQUESTS "IRREVOCABLE UNDERTAKING TO GRANT THE NECESSARY EXPORT LICENCES AND TO PLACE NO OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF THE CONTRACTORS BY WAY OF EXPORT RESTRICTIONS OR MORAL PRESSURE, NOR IN ANY WAY DELAY, HAMPER OR PREVENT THE COMPLETION OF THE CONTRACT" BY MAY 14. WE PLAN TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTE IN MOST AFFIRMATIVE POSSIBLE MANNER. BUT WILL NOT, OF COURSE, BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ASSURANCES OF TYPE REQUESTED. UNLESS QUESTION OF U.S. RESPONSE TO THAT NOTE IS RAISED BY SAG OFFICIALS, EMBASSY SHOULD NOT REFER TO IT, SINCE OUR REPLY WILL NOT BE OF CATEGORICAL NATURE REQUESTED. END FYI. KISSINGER

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 AF-08 PM-04 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 SS-15

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DRAFTED BY:OES/NET/RD:HDBENCELSDORF

APPROVED BY:AF:TSEELYE

AF:MR. JAMES BLAKE

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ACDA:MR. RICK WILLIAMSON (INFO)

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M:MR. LAWRENCE EAGLEBURGER

----- 066681

O 111616Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 114960

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION TO CAPE TOWN INFO JOHANNESBURG
PRETORIA MAY 11, 1976 FROM SECSTATE

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 114960

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, TECH, SF

SUBJECT: KOEBERG NUCLEAR POWER STATION

REF: (A) STATE 108619 (B) STATE 098043 (C) STATE 099278
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UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, AIDE MEMOIRE, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HDBENGELSDORF:LL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760181-0947
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760567/aaaacfeh.tel
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
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Reference: 76 STATE 108619, 76 STATE 98043, 76 STATE 99278
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Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <25 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOEBERG NUCLEAR POWER STATION
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, TECH, SF, US
To: THE HAGUE BERN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006